



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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FRAUDULENT PAYROLL CHECK PASSER SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in San Antonio this morning, Ellis Morganfield of San Antonio was sentenced to 145 months in federal prison on bank fraud and other related fraud charges.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Orlando Garcia ordered that Morganfield pay \$387,400.87 restitution and be placed under supervised release for a period of five years after completing his prison term.

On April 16, 2004, a federal jury convicted Morganfield of two counts of bank fraud, one count of conspiracy to pass, utter and possess fictitious obligations and one substantive count of pass, utter and possess fictitious obligations. The jury found that from June 1, 1997, to June 29, 2000, Morganfield, along with others, devised and implemented a scheme to obtain money by directing others to cash numerous fraudulent payroll checks at small businesses throughout Texas, Florida, Louisiana and Missouri among others. The defendants stole over \$500,000 during their scheme. Douglas Jones of San Antonio, Shalita Williams of Manhattan, KS, Ebonie Toye of San Antonio, Reggie President of Lawton, OK, and Gordon Dunn of Fort Worth, Texas, have been sentenced for their roles in the fraudulent scheme; Leroy Thomas of Lawton, OK, is awaiting sentencing after the same jury convicted him of conspiracy and fictitious obligations charges; and, Alexis Morganfield, Ellis' brother, of San Antonio, is awaiting trial currently set for October 17, 2005, on the conspiracy, bank fraud and fictitious obligations charges.

"Mr. Morganfield and his con artists friends stole hundreds of thousands of dollars from trusting small merchants and banks using fake payroll checks. Twelve years in prison is just punishment for his crimes," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorneys Tom Moore and Tom McHugh prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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